

REMARKS

Claims 20-40 are pending in the present application. In the office action, claims 20-27, 29, 30 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by International Publication WO03/023483 to Tischer et al. ("Tischer"). The drawings were objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention as recited in claim 22.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 28, 31-36, and 38-40 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


In this response, the claims have been amended. Claims 22 and 31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 41-43 have been added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 20, 21, 23-30 and 32-43 will be pending.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention as claimed in claim 22. Claim 22 has been canceled without prejudice, thus rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 20-27, 29, 30 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Tischer. The Examiner has indicated that claim 31 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 20 has now been amended to include the features of allowable claim 31, which has now been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 20, and its dependent claims, are in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 20-27, 29, 30 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) based on Tischer is respectfully requested.

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New Claims

New independent claims 41-43 have now been added reciting the features of allowable claims 38-40, respectively, in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 41-43 are allowable for the same respective reasons that claims 38-40 are.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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